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Docket No. F-8576

Ser. No. 10/523,049

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please find accompanying this response replacement sheets for Figs. 29A, 29B and 30. The drawing amendments designate the figures as being directed to prior art by the legend "PRIOR ART" as suggested in the Office Action.

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REMARKS

Claims 10, 11 and 15 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-14 are rejected. Claims 1-9 and 12-14 are cancelled herein. New claim 15 is added. Claims 10 and 11 are amended herein to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Applicants herein traverse and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims and objection cited in the above-referenced Office Action.

The drawings are objected to. The Office Action states that the legend "Prior Art" is required on Figs. 29(a), 29(b) and 30 to clarify the invention. Replacement drawing sheets containing Figs. 29(a), 29(b) and 30 accompany this amendment wherein the legend "PRIOR ART" is added. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The abstract is objected to on the basis that it is too long. A replacement abstract is provided herein on a separate page. It is submitted that the replacement abstract is in full conformance with 37 CFR 1.72 and MPEP 608.01(b). Therefore, reconsideration of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 8-13 are rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention as a result of informalities stated in the Office Action. Claims 1-9 and 12-14 are cancelled herein, rendering the rejections moot with regard to claims 1, 2, 8 and 9. Remaining claims 10 and 11 are rewritten in independent form, and the

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subject matter of the rejected claims incorporated in the amended claims has been revised to remove or correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 and their allowance are earnestly requested.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are indicated as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haga et al. (US 5,305,858). Applicants believe the inclusion of claims 10 and 11 as part of these anticipation rejections is a typographical error, since no detailed analysis follows, and since the Office Action later states that claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, applicants are treating only claims 1, 8 and 12 as being presently rejected as anticipated. These claims are cancelled herein, rendering the rejection moot.

The Office Action states that claims 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to overcome their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims are submitted as amended accordingly. Claim 15 is added to cover the multiple dependencies lost as a result of rewriting the claims in independent form. Accordingly, reconsideration of the indefiniteness rejection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.


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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form
for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: Replacement Sheets for Figs. 29(a), 29(b) and 30.